

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OIC-04 FEA-02 SS-20 DRC-01 SY-10 /085 W

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R 302250Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2614

S E C R E T OTTAWA 0285

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PINR, CA

SUBJECT: ENRG: BIO REPORTS FOR ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 13742

1. EMBASSY IS INFORMED THAT CANADIAN DELEGATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MITCHELL SHARP; ENERGY, MINES, AND RESOURCES MINISTER DONALD MACDONALD, AND NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD CHAIRMAN MARSHALL CROWE. AS OTHER NAMES ARE ADDED, WE WILL REPORT SEPARATELY. EMBASSY IS RELUCTANT TO OFFER TOO DETAILED OR NUANCED AN EXPOSITION OF VARIOUS VIEWS ON ASPECTS OF OIL POLICY REQUESTED PARA 2 REFTEL. GOC VIEWS ARE BASICALLY PRAGMATIC. WHILE THERE ARE A FEW FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES BY WHICH GOC IS OPERATING, SOLUTION TO "ENERGY CRISIS" ARE BEING SOUGHT ON AN AD HOC BASIS (FOR WHICH GOC HAS DRAWN STRONG CRITICISM FROM OPPOSITION). CANADIAN OFFICIALS THEMSELVES MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY RESPONDING IN DETAIL TO THE QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL. GOC ATTITUDES, AND THOSE OF OFFICIALS INVOLVED, ARE EVOLVING AS SITUATION DEVELOPS. FURTHER, OFFICIALS ARE WELL KNOWN TO THEIR USG COUNTERPARTS. ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL BE IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 31, WHEN FEO ADMINISTRATOR SIMON AND OTHERS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY LEARN HIS LATEST THINKING. WITH THESE RESERVATIONS EMBASSY OFFERS FOLLOWING BIO SKETCHES:

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2. MITCHELL SHARP HAS BEEN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SINCE 1968 AND SERVES AS ACTING PRIMIN IN

TRUDEAU'S ABSENCE. HIS FORMAL EDUCATION WAS IN ECONOMICS, AND HE HAS BEEN A CIVIL SERVANT IN MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE, AS WELL AS A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS EXECUTIVE HE WAS MINISTER OF FINANCE FROM 1965-68. SHARP HAS AN ENVIABLE REPUTATION FOR CALM AND CONSIDERED GOOD JUDGMENT. HE CAN BE FORCEFUL, EVEN BLUNT, WHEN SITUATION WARRANTS, BUT HE IS NEVER IMPETUOUS NOR PRECIPITATE. SHARP IS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES, AND WAS VERY CLOSE PERSONALLY TO FORMER SECRETARY ROGERS. HE HAS ALSO MET SECRETARY KISSINGER ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, MOST RECENTLY AT THE UN IN OCTOBER AND THE NATO MINISTERIAL IN DECMEBER. WHILE WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE US, SHARP IS ASSIDUOUS IN PUTTING CANADIAN INTERESTS FIRST. IN HIS PAPER ON CANADA-US RELATIONS HE ADVOCATES REDUCING "THE PRESENT CANADIAN VULNERABILITY" TOWARD THE US BY STRENGTHENING THE CANADIAN ECONOMY AND SEEKING TRADE OPTIONS ELSEWHERE. HE IS NOT A CONTINENTALIST, ALTHOUGH SYMPATHETIC TO US PROBLEMS AND EAGER TO BE HELPFUL AND FORTHCOMING. AS REGARDS ATTITUDE TOWARDS ARABS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SHARP COMES FROM TORONTO CONSTITUENCY WITH LARGE JEWISH POPULATION WHICH HE WON ONLY BY PLURALITY IN 1972. HIS DESCRIPTION OF GOC ATTITUDE HAS BEEN "PRO-ISRAEL BUT NOT ANTI-ARAB", AND HE WOULD RESIST GOC MOVEMENT TOWARDS POSITION NEGLECTFUL OF ISRAELI INTERESTS. HE IS A STAUNCH ADVOCATE OF AID TO LDGS, AND WOULD BE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO DIMINISHING CANADIAN AID EFFORTS AS RESULT OF ENERGY OR OTHER PROBLEMS. SHARP'S BALANCE AND JUDGMENT ARE MUCH ADMIRERD IN CANADIAN CABINET, AND HIS ADVICE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS GENERALLY DECISIVE, EVENWITH THE MORE FLAMBOYANT TRUDEAU. HIS THOUGHTS AND APPRAISALS WILL CARRY GREAT WEIGHT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES.

3. DONALD S. MACDONALD HAS BEEN MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES SINCE JAN 1972. HE STUDIED LAW AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND WAS AN ATTORNEY IN TORONTO PRIOR TO HIS ELECTION IN 1962. HE RE-ELECTION IN 1972 FROM THE TORONTO CONSTITUENCY OF ROSEDALE WAS, LIKE SHARP'S BY A PLURALITY. HE WAS GOVERNMENT HOUSE LEADER 1968-70, AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE 1970-72. MACDONALD IS AN AMBITIOUS AND DYNAMIC POLITICIAN, WHO IS BY NO MEANS AVERSE TO TAKING INDEPENDENT POSITIONS. AS DEFENSE MINISTER, FOR EXAMPLE, HE ADVOCATED FULL WITHDRAWAL

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OF CANADIAN FORCES FROM EUROPE, AND ONLY RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO RETENTION OF HALF THE CANADIAN FORCE. HE IS KNOWN AS A FORCEFUL AND CAPABLE ADMINISTRATOR, BUT IMPATIENT AND OCCASIONALLY GIVEN TO HASTY DECISIONS. HE HAS A TRIAL LAWYER'S QUICKNESS IN DEBATE, AND HIS SNAP REBUTTALS SOMETIMES GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF BELLIGERANCE. HE IS ALSO KNOWN FOR HIS TEMPER (HIS NICKNAME IS THUMPER). DESPITE THE ABOVE, MACDONALD IS A MAN OF CONSIDERABLE KEEN INTELLIGENCE, AND CAPABLE OF MUCH PERSONAL CHARM AND WITH. ALTHOUGH HIS DECISIONS ARE CLEARED BY TRUDEAU AND CABINET, MACDONALD HAS BEEN IN GOOD MEASURE

RESPONSIBLE FOR CANADIAN ENERGY POLICY, AND HAS DRAWN CRITICISM  
FOR THE "AD HOCERY" MENTIONED IN PARA 1 ABOVE. THE ANNOUNC  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, IMPORTS, SUPPLIES, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974OTTAWA00285  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 112  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 13742  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 11 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ENRG: BIO REPORTS FOR ENERGY CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** ENRG, PINR, CA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005